

Faithful Sayings:

Godliness Is Profitable Unto All (1 Timothy 4:6-10)

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Faithful Saying: Godliness is Profitable unto all things

1 Tim 4:6-10 - Have you ever mis-understood a statement that some one made. Politicians are all the time saying they were mis-quoted. Some one got it wrong.

This faithful saying before us here could be easily mis-understood. Just read the first few words. For bodily exercise profiteth little. I know a whole lot of Baptist that would like that to be their life verse. But that's not exactly what Paul is relating here. What is he saying here? His main emphasis is to prefer the exercise of Godliness over the exercise of our temporal bodies. EC is commended to live Godly

I. A Practical Contrast vs 7 - The set up or the context of our faithful saying is the practical contrast we see in verse seven.

A. The Rejection of a Profane Wisdom vs 6

Profane - means wicked or heathen. Paul is referring to the empty religious teaching of the judiaizes who were not professing the doctrine of Christ but were trying to

pull the early church in to the realm of rituals that judaism had become. Such as in vs 3 states forbidding many, abstain from meats, other passages refer to circumcisions and law keeping as personal ^{HW} righteousness

B. The Reception of a Godly Walk VS 10 -

No Paul says. Reject that ritual wisdom but rather receive a Godly walk. A walk that strives unto an imitation of God. What is godliness? What does it mean to be godly? Where can we see an example of godliness? 1 Tim 3:16. How was God manifested in Flesh? chr the Lord Jesus Christ. So to walk in godliness is to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. 1 Jn 2:6 1 Peter 2:21

II. A Physical Comparison VS 8a-b - Paul now gives us an analogy a comparison that shows the reason for the contrast in verse 7

A. The Worthlessness of Bodily Practice VS 8a

Here Paul compares the foolery of profane wisdom in VS 7 to the athlete exercising for athletic competition. Athletes mortify their desires and strain their bodies to win an event to reach a self satisfying goal, to gain the notoriety of the spectators around them. This same is true of the Judaiacs, chr so spiritual but do this... and don't do this.

B. The Richness of a Godly Pursuit VS 8b

But Godliness or Christlikeness is profitable pursuit in all of life. The athletic-like rigors of religious ritual may gain the approval of man

HW - Transcends things that are opposed to the truth of God, imaginary ideas, such as ignorant old women devoid of spiritual insight might be inclined to circulate,

1) 1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, ...

2) 1 John 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. 1 Peter 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

3) ...and don't do this. This exercising does avails them nothing before the eyes of God. The Jew bowing at the wailing wall, the catholic lighting their candles does them nothing before the eyes of God!

1) In High School, practicing basketball did me a lot of good on the basketball court, but not in the class room, not with my family, not at my church. But if I'd been saved and pursuing Christ, would have benefited me not only on the basketball court, but in the class room and at home.

2) Psalms 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. Psalms 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. Philipians 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Hebrews 13:5 ...I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Isaiah 43:2 When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. Psalms 37:25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

3) Matthew Henry: If godly people have but little of the good things of the life that now is, yet it shall be made up to them in the good things of the life that is to come.

and ease the conscience of the man,
but it does not win the approval of God.
God wants your heart! And a rich
and wonderful life is when our hearts desire
is solely to follow and persevere in Him. ^{Barth}

III. The Profiting Contestant vs 8c-d - A was

in gymnastics when I was a small child and
I received a couple of All-Around champion ^{we are all around}
that means I was the best in every event. Will Paul say

A. The Guarantee of the Here and Now vs 8c

We have the promise or guarantee of life
that is now. Now wait a minute, you have
told me that there are no guarantees in this
life. We could die at any moment. What

is this promise of life. We are promised
the rich abundant life of Jn 10:10. Of
knowing and walking w/ the living God, of
having access to his throne of grace.
I can say "Ps 23:1 Philp 4:19 Heb 13:5 Matt 6:33"

B. The Glory of the Here After vs 8d

Matt Hen said "if godly people have
but little of the good things of life ③
What little of the joys of knowing
God in this life pail in comparison.

They are but the tip of the ice
berg compared to the Glory that is
to come. Like old Dr Hys used to say
for me for me for me there is mansion
there for me it can't be ^{Heaven is good to me} happen in

IV. A Persecution Cautioned vs10 - Paul paints a wonderful picture for us that persevere godlyness but then also gives us the →

A. The Reality of the Believer's Persecution vs10a

No the christian life is not a bed of roses. A godly life is by no means a life w/o testing and trial & difficulty. 2 Tim 3:12 It's a battle field brother not a recreation room. The world & devil do not like the godly life that reflects upon them.

B. The Reason for the Believer's Persecution vs10b

But although we do labor and suffer reproach we do so in the light of the Fact that there is a living God who is in control of all! In the midst of the raging storms of life we can stand on the hull of a ship and say w/ apostle Paul "The Lord God!"

C. The Redeemer of the Believing Person vs10c

Oh what a truth lies in verse 10, this living God is able to save all men because he died for all men! He holds their lives in the palm of his hand! Acts 17 Yet he is particularly the Saviour of only those that believe. Only saved people can be saved.

V. Closing - Exercise Godliness!

Are you concerned more about your Godliness than your healthiness? Have you laid aside true godliness for religious ritual

- 1) 2 Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ
Jesus shall suffer persecution.